Policy for granting citizenship to Pak nationals

†1699. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that taking advantage of laxity of Indian laws and negligence of Government agencies, many Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals are making their living in India;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of applications from Pakistani nationals pending currently for Indian citizenship together with the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) Government's policy for providing Indian citizenship to these Pakistani nationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government is aware of the problem of illegally staying foreigners (mainly from Bangladesh).

(b) The Power under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in the country unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They have been advised to launch special drives from time to time to detect and deport illegally staying foreigners.

(c) Citizenship applications have to go through different stages under State Government/Union Territory and Central Government. Therefore, no definite pendency figure for such applications can be specified.

(d) All applications for Indian citizenship are considered under various provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Rules made thereunder. There is no special policy with respect to Pak nationals.

Separate Statutory Board for Konkan region

1700. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request from the State Government of Maharashtra

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for establishment of a separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan is pending with his Ministry for the last 12 years;

(b) if so, the latest position of the case; and

(c) by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Based on a unanimous Resolution passed by both Houses of the State Legislature on 13.3.1989, the Government of Maharashtra has been pursuing with the Government of India on a proposal to amend Article 371 (2)(a) of the Constitution to provide for the establishment of a separate Statutory Development Board for the Konkan region.

(b) and (c) Data available in the Government of Maharashtra's Human Development Report 2002 shows that the Konkan region has, rather than being deprived, actually achieved significant progress during the last decade when compared to the rest of Maharashtra. Since the original Resolution of the State Legislature had been passed long back in 1989, the Government of Maharashtra was requested to obtain afresh the views of both the Houses of Legislature of Maharashtra. The State Legislature has on 15.12.2005 passed a unanimous Resolution that for the removal of the backlog and for the rapid development of this region, the creation of a Statutory Development Board for Konkan is necessary and has urged the Government of India to take necessary steps to amend Article 371 (2)(a) of the Constitution for the purpose. The views of the Planning Commission have been sought in the matter in the light of the latest available data on the Konkan region. Since the matter involves complex issues, it is not possible to specify a definite timeframe.

Implementation of Assam Accord in totality

1701. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the Assam Accord in its totality; and

(b) the details thereof?